

May 1, 1975

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion? The question is the advancement of 4 . . . Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, question of Senator Skarda please. Are there specific reasons, Senator Skarda?

SENATOR SKARDA: No, the specific reason is for the Orphium Theater, to begin with, during intermission for cocktail purposes. That's what my understanding was. They might broaden it to include golf courses. The city of Omaha now has two licenses, I'm told. One they inherited when they annexed Millard. It's used for social purposes in Millard. The other one they bought. If they want any additional licenses, other than the two that they've got, they've got to actually buy them. That's why we introduced the legislation.

SENATOR DICKINSON: You mean that the city can obtain a license, or they buy someone out?

SENATOR SKARDA: That's right. That's how they got one. They obtained the other one from Millard through annexation.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Where are the existing licenses now?

SENATOR SKARDA: One is in a golf course, the other one in Millard, used for social activity of some kind. I'm not familiar with it.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Well I wasn't aware that they could go out and buy them now. Personally, after having attended this function at the Orphium Theater, and this is as you say was the original intent of needing one, to me it would be disappointing to turn it into a bar, the beautiful Orphium Theater. On the night we were there there wasn't a place to get a drink of water in the first place. Maybe they think they could make some good money. They were lined up about 50 deep to get at the water fountain, which seemed a little ridiculous. Seriously, I think that this is totally unnecessary. If people at the Orphium Theater need a drink that bad during intermission they perhaps can walk across the street and patronize the Class C license holder that seems to be in trouble because we have another bill here that wants to guarantee him a 15 percent markup because he can't compete with the drug stores and supermarkets. So it doesn't make too much sense to me to put the city any deeper in the liquor business than they already are. I hate to oppose Senator Skarda, but I truly have apprehensions about this type of thing.

SENATOR SKARDA: That's your privilege and your feeling. You want to remember when these licenses are issued they are issued for a limited time. Then the admission might be for 15 or 20 minutes. If you put them on the golf course it's also limited. They don't operate in direct competition to the retailers. I don't think I see anything